



August A. **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area  
**Powder Valley** Conservation Nature Center  
**Rockwoods** Reservation



# Making Tracks

April 2001

Volume 01, Number 04

## EARTH DAY: St. Louis, 2001

by David Bruns, Conservation Education Consultant

This year's theme of St. Louis Earth day is "Our Waters, Our River." This is a timely topic since the focus of many conservation efforts in the St. Louis region revolves around the protection and management of watersheds. The health of our watersheds can impact many aspects of our lives from the quality of our drinking water, to the quality of our favorite fishing spots. While we all live in a watershed, a good understanding of how watersheds work can be found right in the palm of our hand.

A watershed can be defined as a land area which drains into a larger body of water such as a stream, river or lake. A simple model of a watershed can be seen if you hold your hand palm up under a faucet and allow the water to run from your fingertips, down through the crease of your palm. Like our hand, a watershed is a complex collection of diverse parts. Just as we have several different fingers, there are different land cover types such as forests, fields, crop lands and urban areas which make up watersheds. Land cover type and human activities influence the watershed and ultimately impact the health and quality of the streams and rivers that they drain into. As natural landscapes are converted into urban and suburban developments, for example, the amount of pollution and other negative impacts to watersheds increases. Watersheds can be small, such as the watershed of a small creek. But small watersheds, like so many hands held close together, contribute to larger watersheds including the huge watersheds of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Many people would be surprised to learn that one of the greatest threats to the quality of our streams and rivers is not industrial pollution; but siltation and "non-point source pollution." Siltation is when silt and soil washes into water ways making the water look muddy. Lands which are

used for agriculture, and lands which are cleared for development are the primary sources of siltation. This silt can ruin the habitat of fish and other aquatic life. Good farmers allow a strip of natural trees and vegetation to grow as a protective buffer between their fields and streams. Developers are also required to take measures to reduce the amount of siltation which comes from construction sites, although, watchful citizens and attentive local officials play an important role in ensuring that "best management practices" are properly implemented and maintained. Non-point source pollution comes from many locations in a watershed. When rain falls on our rooftops, lawns and streets, it has little chance to soak into the ground. It runs into storm drains, flooding gullies and small creeks, taking with it the dirt, debris and harmful substances which had been deposited since the last rainfall. Farmlands can also be a source of non-point source pollution.

The celebration of Earth day in St. Louis will take place in Forest Park on Sunday, April 22. This event promises to provide plenty of information and action strategies on how we can "lend a hand" in helping protect watersheds and water quality in the St. Louis Region.



Additional information about water quality and what you can do to help can be found through the Missouri Department of Conservation website: [www.conservation.state.mo.us](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us) and also through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources website: [www.dnr.state.mo.us](http://www.dnr.state.mo.us)

Information about St. Louis Earth Day 2001 can be found through the Earth Day web site: [www.stlouisearthday.org](http://www.stlouisearthday.org) or call (314) 962-5838.


News from  
**Powder Valley Conservation  
 Nature Center**

## SACAGAWEA? SACAJAWEA? SAKAKAWEA?

Sacagawea was the young Shoshoni Indian woman from the "Snake Nation" who helped guide Lewis & Clark and the Corps of Discovery on their expedition to find a route to the Pacific Ocean by water. She lived with her husband, a French-Canadian fur trader named Toussaint Charbonneau, among the Hidatsa and Mandan Indians in North Dakota. Toussaint was hired as an interpreter. Sacagawea also proved valuable as an interpreter with the Shoshoni later on in the trip. She negotiated for the horses the explorers needed to cross the mountains that lay between the Corps and the Pacific Ocean.

There is some confusion on the spelling and pronunciation of her name. Her name was spelled fourteen different ways in the writings of Lewis & Clark. They all were consistent in using a "g" in the third syllable. Concerning her name Meriwether Lewis wrote in his journal: "a handsome river of about fifty yards in width discharged itself into the shell (Mussellshell) river. This stream was called Sahcagahweah or bird woman's river, after our interpreter the Snake woman."

The spelling Sacagawea (sa-ka-ga-we-a), which means bird woman in Hidatsa, has been adopted by Lewis & Clark researchers, the National Geographic Society, the Encyclopedia Americana, and the World Book Encyclopedia. There are two other common spellings and pronunciations of her name. In the Hidatsa language in North Dakota her name is spelled Sakakawea (sa-ka-ka-we-a) which means Birdwoman. The Shosoni (mainly Idaho) preference is Sacajawea (sak-a-ja-we-a), and a means "boat launcher" or "boat pusher."

In honor of Sacagawea's invaluable role as an interpreter, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center has added to our Collector's Edition series of pins, a pin with her picture and three of the spellings of her name. The pins are \$3.00 each. If you have a Heritage Card the price will be \$2.55. Start your Collector's Edition series of pins now. 

**11715 Cragwold Road  
 Kirkwood, MO 63122  
 (314) 301 - 1500**

**LOCATION:** From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road.

### AREA HOURS:

Daylight Savings Time:  
 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Central  
 Standard Time: 8 a.m. to  
 6 p.m.

### NATURE CENTER

**HOURS:** Open all year,  
 7 days a week, from 8 a.m.  
 to 5 p.m.

### GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Open all year, 7 days a  
 week, from 8 a.m. to  
 4:30 p.m.

### ABOUT THE AREA:

112 acres of forestland and winding creeks, three hiking trails (one wheelchair accessible). Open to visitors free of charge.




### Resident Artisan Native Crafts & Skills

*Saturday, April 28 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Sunday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*

Jerry and Susan Wilson will be demonstrating how prehistoric Missourians spun yarn, dyed it with indigenous plants, and wove the yarn into fabric without using a loom.

Their daughter, Sarah, will be demonstrating how to throw an atlatl.

Bring the whole family and learn these prehistoric skills of survival! Demonstrations outside - weather permitting. If inclement weather, demonstration will be in lobby or classroom. 



### Earth Day at Powder Valley Saturday, April 21, 2001

Earth Day is a day to celebrate the wonderful planet we live on. The theme for this year's Earth Day is "Our Water, Our Rivers." Water is essential to life, and understanding ways to conserve this resource is important to the quality of our lives.

Powder Valley will have a Discovery Table displaying life in rivers and streams. Apply your knowledge at our stamp table and

create a river habitat picture to take home with you. There will also be two programs offered: "Microinvertebrate Mayhem." & "Reducing litter that enters the water system." (see page 8 for reservation information for both programs).

Movie title and times playing in our auditorium on April 21:

**10-11a & 1-2p: See How They Grow: Pond Animals; Eyewitness: Fish**

**11a-12 & 2-3p: Fisheries Management II; Fishing a Missouri Stream.**

### Upcoming Special Program

The 22nd Annual  
 Storytelling Festival  
**"Sparks by the  
 River"**

*Saturday, May 5  
 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
 & 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

Experience nature through storytelling. (Reservations begin April 20.)

News from

# Rockwoods Reservation

## Amphibians

by Tom Meister, Interpretive  
Programs Supervisor



Amphibians. What are they, and what are they up to this time of year? The word "Amphibious" comes from the Greek words *amphi*, meaning on both sides, and *bios*, meaning life. Amphibians live life on both sides: water and land. The majority of Missouri's amphibians-frogs, toads and salamanders- live life as an adult on land but must return to the water to reproduce. A few species are totally aquatic and some lay their eggs in moist places on land. Amphibians are cold-blooded or ectothermic, meaning they are unable to internally control their body temperature. Other characteristics include moist skin, toxic or irritating skin secretions, and no scales or claws.



The eggs of toads and frogs hatch into tadpoles, which have covered gills. The majority of tadpoles eat aquatic plants, especially algae. Most salamander eggs hatch into aquatic larvae that have exposed gills and eat various aquatic invertebrates. Adult salamanders can be distinguished from adult frogs and toads by the presence of a tail. The hind legs of frogs and toads are much larger than those of salamanders. Also, all salamanders are voiceless, while male frogs and toads produce a breeding call.

The toads, frogs and salamanders native to Missouri are a valuable part of our outdoor heritage. Most people probably don't give them much thought, but we need these amphibians to control destructive insects and to add their voices to the sounds of the seasons. Just hearing them or seeing them can add to our enjoyment of the outdoors. Their role in nature can be illustrated by the number of insects they eat and by the number of animals that eat them. They are also indicators of the surrounding environment. Where there are amphibians, there is usually unpolluted water, a good habitat and plenty of food available.

April is an awesome time to investigate amphibians, and at Rockwoods we are investigating them by doing pond studies, night sounds and froggy hikes. Check out the calendar page for more information or call Rockwoods Reservation for additional information on programs and amphibians.



## 11 Homeschool Special - A Garden for Wildlife

Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 8 - Adult) Learn landscape design basics and plan a flower garden with wildlife in mind. Taught by a Master Gardener. (Reservations begin April 2.)

## 12 Homeschool Special - Cave Crawl

Thursday 10:30 a.m. - Noon

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 9 to Adult) Explore Rockwoods cave! We'll look for cave formations, bats, salamanders, and other cave life. Wear old long-sleeve shirt and log pants and be prepared for some belly-crawling in the mud! (Reservations begin April 2.)

*See pages 4 and 5 for a complete program listing.*

**2751 Glencoe Road  
Wildwood, MO 63038  
(636) 458 - 2236**

### LOCATION:

From I-44, take Hwy 109 (Eureka exit) north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. From Hwy 40 (I-64), take Clarkson Road south to Manchester Road; right (west) on Manchester to Hwy 109; left (south) on Highway 109, 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs. From Manchester Road, take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and immediately right on Glencoe Road; follow signs.

**AREA HOURS:** Sunrise until 1/2 hour after sunset.

### VISITOR CENTER

**HOURS:** Open seven days a week all year, except holidays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### ABOUT THE AREA:

All facilities are free to the public including:

- \*Education Center with exhibits and interpretive programs.
- \*1,898 acres of rugged, mostly hardwood forested land interspersed with springs and streams.
- \*Two picnic areas (one with charcoal grills) with drinking water, tables, and toilets.
- \*Seven trails (one is self-guided and wheelchair accessible) totaling more than 10 miles.



## How to register for an

Reservations are required unless otherwise specified. Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Programs are intended for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

## ROCKWOODS

For reservations, call (636) 458 - 2236

### 1 April Fools Discovery Table

*Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.*  
(All Ages) Can we fool you? Take our way-out wildlife quiz to test your knowledge of nature's wierdest creatures, and check out some wild and crazy nature stuff. (No reservations required.)

### 6 Tree Study

*Friday 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.*  
(Ages 7 - 14) Join us for a study of one of our most important natural resources - trees. Learn to identify 10 common trees of MO and some of their interesting uses. Please dress for the weather. (Reservations begin on March 26.)

### 7 Easter Baskets and Egg Dyeing

*Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*  
(Families) Plastic Easter grass, eggs and baskets - Easter can generate a lot of landfill-bound trash! Come make Easter basket stuffers from recycled materials and color eggs with natural dyes. Please bring your own (hard-boiled) eggs and a basket to recycle. (Reservations begin March 26.)

### 14 Attracting Hummingbirds

*Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*  
(Families) Learn more about these tiny creatures and how make a feeder (one per family) to take home. Please bring a 16 oz. plastic water or soda bottle. (Reservations begin April 2.)

### 17 Toddling into Nature: Birds

*Tuesday 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.*

## APRIL Program

Reservations will be taken Monday through Friday for individuals and families only. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel your reservation as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. **Please be prompt. Arrival after 10 minutes may exclude you from the program.** Interpreting services are available for people with hearing loss with five days advanced notice.

## BUSCH AREA

For reservations, call (636) 441 - 4554

### 6 Dying Eggs Naturally

*Friday 10:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 7-12) Find out what colors come from what natural products. Bring 6 hard boiled eggs to color. (Reservations begin March 23.)

### 7 Wetlands For Kids

See description, page 6



### 9 Outstanding Insects

*Monday 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-6) Did you know not all insects are bugs? All insects do, however, share 3 main body parts. Come and discover what an insect is and then venture outdoors to try to find them! (Reservations begin March 26.)

### 14 What comes from Eggs?

*Saturday 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-6) We'll look at the animals that start out as eggs and then go outside to hunt for eggs. Children will take home a goodie bag. (Reservations begin March 30.)

### 18 April Showers bring

#### May Flowers

*Wednesday 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 7-12) Why is "dirt" the most important commodity in a garden? What will do well in your family's garden? Participate in a project to enhance both Busch and your garden at home. (Reservations begin April 4.)

## POWDER VALLEY

For reservations, call (314)301-1500

Please limit requests to two programs per month, with only one to include an Ages 3-6 program.

### 2 & 16 Lewis & Clark Expedition

*Monday 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.*  
(Adults) Travel the Lewis & Clark Trail vicariously with a volunteer naturalist who was fortunate enough to have done it. (Reservations begin March 20.)

### 3 Smokey Bear & Forests

*Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 5-9) Learn about Smokey Bear, trees and forests. Great for Homeschoolers! (Reservations begin March 20.)

### 3, 10, 17 & 24



### Woodland Wildflower Walk

*Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - Noon*  
(Adults) Enjoy the springtime woods as we identify what's blooming on Hickory Ridge Trail. (Reservations begin March 20, 27 and April 3 and 10, respectively.)

### 4 Breakfast for the Birds

*Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.*  
(Adults) Learn about Missouri's birds over breakfast and a hike. (Reservations begin March 21.)

### 7 Peter Cottontail (The Easter Bunny)

*Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*  
(Ages 3-6) Learn about rabbits - Fact & Fiction. (Reservations begin March 27.)

### 7 & 14 Identification of Common Trees

*Saturday 10:30 a.m. - Noon*  
(Adults) Walk one trail and identify Missouri's common trees. (Reservations begin March 27 and April 3, respectively.)

### 10 Egg-Citing

*Tuesday 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.*  
(Ages 3 - 6) Learn about birds and other Missouri animals that lay eggs. (Reservations begin March 27.)

& 1:15p.m. - 2:15p.m.  
(Ages 3 - 6 ) Join us to take a hike to our bird viewing blind to help us learn the names of some of our bird friends. (Reservations begin April 9.)

## 19 Pond Study: Amphibians

*Thursday* 10:30 a.m. - Noon  
& 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about amphibians and their life cycles. We will do this by sampling pond life and investigating what is living there. Be prepared to get down and dirty! (Reservations begin April 9.)

## 21 Spring Wildflower Walk

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

(All Ages) Join us to walk one of our nature trails. We'll discover the wonders of spring and identify wildflowers. (Reservations begin April 9.)

## 24 Night Sounds of Spring

*Tuesday* 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Join us on a hike to a pond and wetland for the sounds and sights of a spring evening. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. (Reservations begin April 16.)

## 28 Green Rock Trail Hike

*Saturday* 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(Ages 12 - Adult) Join us for a 10-mile, moderately strenuous hike along Rockwoods' most rugged trail. Wear sturdy boots, and bring a lunch. Meet at Rockwoods Education Center and we'll "shuttle" to the trail head. (Reservations begin April 16.)

### Wildflower Walk

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - Noon

(Ages 6 - Adult) See wild flowers blooming in their native habitat. Be prepared to hike to several locations. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 16.)

*See Page 3 for Rockwoods' special programs for homeschool families!*

## 20 Spring Insects

*Friday* 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

(Ages 7-12) Learn about insects that emerge in the spring. (Reservations begin April 6.)

## 21 Wildflower Hike

*Saturday* 9:00 a.m.

(Families) Come out to see what wildflowers are blooming in early spring. Please bring a wildflower guide if you have one. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin April 6.)

### Nature's Nursery (Discovery Table)

*Saturday* 9:00 a.m. - Noon

(Families) Many baby animals are in the woods now. Learn about baby animal habitats and what to do if you find a baby animal in the woods. (No reservations required.)

## 22 Building Birdhouses Naturally

*Sunday* 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 6 - Adult) We will be making birdhouses out of gourds. Each person will receive a small starter gourd plant to raise your own gourds. Reservations begin April 6.

## 24 Froggie Walk

*Tuesday* 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(Families) Join us for this interactive search for amphibians. Dress for the weather and muddy conditions. (Reservations begin April 10.)



## 25 Wildflower Walk

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m.

(Ages 3 - 6) Walk a short trail to identify wildflowers. We will talk about what we find on the trail. (Reservations begin April 11.)

## 28 Basic Fishing

*Saturday* 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

(Ages 8 - 12) Children will learn the basics of fishing and try to catch some fish. Please bring a rag, chair, fingernail clipper and water to drink. **Meet at Lake 2.** (Reservations begin April 13.)

## 11 Babes In The Woods

*Wednesday* 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(Birth-3 yrs) A stroller walk with the very young to awaken them to nature. (Reservations begin March 28.)

## 13 Stories By Fire Light

*Friday* 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(All ages) Enjoy stories for all ages! Will be held indoors if weather is inclement. If you attended last month, please give others a chance to attend this month. (Reservations begin March 30.)

## 14, 21 & 28 Emmenegger Walks

*Saturday* 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Adults) Walk the new Emmenegger trails and check out the wildflowers. **Meet at the bridge in Kirkwood's Emmenegger Nature Park.** (Reservations begin April 3, 10 and 17 respectively.)

## 17 Mammal Discovery Table

*Saturday* 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn about Missouri's warm blooded & fuzzy friends. (No reservations required.)

## 19 Homeschool Programs

*Thursday* 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

### Feeling Froggy (Ages 3-6)

How do frogs grow? How are they different from other animals? Everything's froggy as children discover the answers to these questions through mimicry, craft, and field study.

### Scopes Alive! (Ages 7- 12)

Students will learn the basics of microscope use along with investigation of minuscule organisms, terrestrial and aquatic. (Reservations begin for both programs April 3.)



## 26 Rocking Chair Storytime

*Thursday* 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

(All Ages) Come and enjoy a fun-packed hour of hearing stories, using puppets, and experiencing surprises galore! (No Reservations Required.)

## 28 Butterfly Gardening

*Saturday* 11:00 a.m. - Noon (Adults)  
& 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (7+ yrs)

Learn how to add life to your garden by planting flowers that attract butterflies. (Reservations begin April 17.)

News from **Busch** Memorial Conservation Area  
August A.



## Wetlands for Kids



**April 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**St. Louis Regional Office, August A. Busch Conservation Area**

This is a fun event for the whole family. Hands-on activity stations will help participants learn about wetlands. Stations include: Wetlands; Reptiles and Amphibians - touch snakes and frogs at this station; Waterfowl - discover the ducks that live on our wetlands and try to identify them at the Duckwing maze; Retrievers - watch these amazing dogs "retrieve" decoys, and much much more!

For more information, call 636.441.4554

Sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, Ducks Unlimited and the Missouri Department of Conservation

## "Wetlands"

*by: Danny Crigler, Private Land Conservationist*

Whether we call them swamps, sloughs, marshes, or potholes, wetlands are areas where soils normally are saturated or covered with water. They are the most productive ecosystems in the world. Their value to countless species of wildlife is surpassed by no other type of habitat. Wetlands provide many important benefits to man and his environment, and provide endless hours of recreational enjoyment.

Wetlands have been drained and destroyed in alarming numbers over the last 50 years. The most recent surveys indicate that over half of the wetlands in the United States have been lost as a result of drainage and filling, and many of our remaining wetlands have deteriorated in quality because of siltation, pollution and alterations. Only within the last few years has there been increased understanding of the values of this natural resource. Wetland protection and restoration is certainly one of conservation's biggest challenges today.

To learn more, experience a Ducks Unlimited and Missouri Department of Conservation special event called "Wetlands For Kids." It's a fun and educational outing for the entire family. See details listed above.



## BUSCH RANGE

### Hours for April 2001:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday - Tuesday  
Closed Wednesday & Thursday

For more information,  
call 636.441.4554 ext. 251

## HENGES RANGE

### Hours for April 2001:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday - Sunday  
Closed Monday, Tuesday,  
Special Events & Holidays  
For more information,  
call 636.938.9548

## Upcoming Event! Mark your calendars-- Kids' Fishing Fair

May 19, 2001

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation  
Area: Lakes 1, 2 & 15

**NOTE:** This event combines the traditional Kids' Fishing Day and Family Fishing Fair.

Want to learn to fish? Join us in this special event and discover fish and fishing. Children ages 15 and under can fish. Volunteers will be on hand to help parents teach their children how to cast, catch the fish and reel it in!

**2360 Highway D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
(636) 441 - 4554**

### LOCATION:

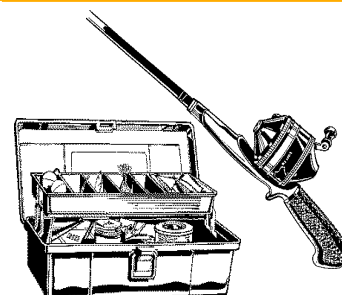
From Hwy 40, take 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles.

From I-70, take 94/First Capitol exit; turn south on Hwy 94 to Hwy D; turn west on D for approx. 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

**HOURS:** Area is open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

October 1 through March 31. See area regulations for special hunt hours. Fishing hours are 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. October 1 through March 31. Rental boats are available April 1 through September 30 only. Office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**ABOUT THE AREA:** 6,987 acres with 32 lakes and 40 ponds totaling 526 acres of water for fishing. There are six viewing blinds (two are wheelchair accessible), seven hiking trails totaling 5 miles, picnic area, staffed firearms range, and fishing jetties (some are wheelchair accessible). The area has interpretive programs, exhibits, demonstration sites, and is used by bicyclists.





# Local Services & Events

## The Educators' Niche

by: Nancy Snider, Conservation Education Consultant



### Word of the month:



**Camouflage:** protective coloration that helps an animal blend into its surroundings.

## Go Take a Hike!

April is a great month to get out and experience the outdoors ! To help you, try these simple activities:

### Unnature Hike

This activity is a good way to introduce the concepts of camouflage and help heighten awareness of surroundings.

#### Materials needed:

15 - 20 man-made objects of different sizes and colors. Some of the objects should be bright and stand out. Some objects should blend in.

40 - 50 feet of trail . If you do not have a trail you can use a brushy hedge row or garden path.

#### Procedure:

Place the objects along the "trail," some hidden, some obvious. Keep the number of objects planted a secret. Instruct the children to walk along the trail and try to spot, but not touch, the unnatural objects. Explain that unnatural objects are objects that are not normally found here. You might have to discuss this point with young children before beginning. The children should not point at the items. They should keep what they discover a secret and we will see who discovers the most! Have the children walk along the "trail" and report to you how many items they saw. If no one saw them all, have them try again. After the activity, have the children help you pick up the items. Usually there is at least one item that blended in and was so well hidden that no one found it. The children are surprised when you show it to them. End the hike with a discussion on camouflage (see word of the month). NOTE: The children often find items that you did not place along the trail. Unfortunately trash is found everywhere. However, this can also become a good discussion point about waste and recycling. Have the children pick up and sort the trash you find for disposal and recycling.

NOW, take your group on a hike in our wonderful Missouri Spring and observe how much more aware the children and you are of your surroundings. **Remember to take a trash bag with you and help us keep our Conservation Areas clean!**

**Unnature Hike** was adapted from *Sharing Nature With Children* by Joseph Cornell, published by Dawn Publications, Nevada City, CA.1979, ISBN 0-916124-14-2

### Other Hike Activities

Create a clipboard (drawing board) to use on a hike.

#### Materials needed:

Empty cereal box  
Masking tape or large binder clip  
paper  
string  
pencil

#### Procedure:

Cut out the back and/or front of the cereal box so that you have a rectangular piece of cardboard. Punch out a hole in the upper corner of the cardboard. Tie the string through the hole and then a pencil to the other end of the string. Tape or clip paper to the top of the cardboard.

Now you have a clipboard that the children can use to draw or record their observations. Use it for a color hike or sound hike observation sheet.



### Color Hike (preschoolers)

Before going on a hike give each student a chart that shows colors. Have the students color a square that corresponds to the color they see.

### ABC Hike (Preschool - K & 1<sup>st</sup> grade)

Can the students find an item for every letter of the alphabet? With preschoolers try just a few letters.

### Shape (Geometry) Hike

On a sheet of paper draw a Triangle, Square, Circle, Oval, etc... As the students encounter a natural item, they should put a mark next to the shape it resembles most. Or they can draw the item. For example: a pine tree and its triangular shape.



### Outdoor Classroom Grants

are available for 2001-2002 school year!

Check out our website for details:

[www.conservation.state.mo.us](http://www.conservation.state.mo.us)

or call 314.231.3803

e-mail [oe@mail.conservation.state.mo.us](mailto:oe@mail.conservation.state.mo.us) for an application.



# Making Tracks

Missouri Department of Conservation

11715 Cragwold Road

Kirkwood, MO 63122

PRSRT STD.  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
MO DEPT OF CONSERVATION

Celebrate  
EARTH DAY!



POWDER VALLEY HAS  
EARTH DAY 2001  
TEE SHIRTS AVAILABLE  
SEE OUR BRIGHT  
COLORFUL SHIRTS.  
ALL SIZES \$12.25 EACH  
(plus tax)

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Making Tracks

April 2001

## Celebrate EARTH DAY!

*Powder Valley:*

### Macroinvertebrate Mayhem

Saturday, April 21 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
& 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

(Ages 6 - 14) Learn about water quality through the eyes of insects that live in our stream. See how delicate the balance of life can be when we don't have healthy streams for these animals to live in. (Reservations begin April 10.)

### Reducing Waste in our Water

Saturday, April 21 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
& 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

(Ages 6 - 14) Learn what a water shed is, and how to reduce litter that hurts these systems and the animals that live in them. (Reservations begin April 10.)

*Rockwoods Reservation:*

### Celebrate Earth Day!

Saturday, April 21 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Families) Come learn about the history of Earth Day and why it is important for us to observe it. Bring a pre-washed white t-shirt to decorate with nature stamps to celebrate this special day! (Reservations begin April 9)

## Volunteer Milestones

*Thanks for all your  
effort and help!*

### Rockwoods Reservation

Jan Castanis.....500 hours  
Robin Gavlick.....700 hours  
Richard Mehringer.1400 hours  
Glenda Myers.....1300 hours  
Jim Westbury.....1900 hours

### Busch Conservation Area

George Pryor....1900 hours  
Dick Baumann....600 hours  
Jim Goessling...2500 hours  
Al Newman.....1200 hours  
Lois Zvibleman..600 hours  
Mary Smith.....1600 hours  
Doug Robb..... 600 hours  
Rick Murphy.....300 hours

### Powder Valley Nature Center

Tom Bayer.....300 hours  
Bill Heady.....300 hours  
Ron Pohle.....400 hours  
Dale Rees.....1700 hours  
Gil Rosemann.....1400 hours  
Dick Wasson.....3100 hours  
Neva Wasson.....3100 hours  
David Winkler.....300 hours  
Dietrich Mueller....100 hours  
Doris Peters.....100 hours  
Kristen Pierce.....100 hours  
Herp Room Volunteers'  
combined hours.....35 hours